(c) what role Central Silk Board has played in mitigating the ordeals of sericulture farmers in view of drought condition in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Financial assistance for installation of drip irrigation systems being aimed at mitigating drought conditions may be considered as a measure for relief to such sericulture farmers.

(b) The year-wise funds given from the scheme 'Installation of Drip Irrigation System' to the southern States during the last three years is given below:

Rs. in lakhs

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the Scheme Installation of Drip Irrigation System		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1.	Karnataka	67.50	114.70	97.20
2.	Tamil Nadu	26.73	65.70	17.28
3.	Andhra Pradesh	22.50	81.67	492.48
4.	Maharashtra	11.25	—	—
5.	Kerala	1.58	0.32	7.27
	TOTAL	129.56	262.39	614.23

(c) The Central Silk Board has evolved high yielding drought tolerant mulberry varieties and silkworm races which would help sericulture farmers in drought prone area to obtain sustained yields.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 2ND, DECEMBER, 2003*

Provision for CNG in cities

†*1. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

*The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, the 2nd December, 2003 was adjourned as a work of respect to the memory of Shri K.M. Khan, a Sitting Member. Answers to Questions put down in the lists for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Wednesday, the 3rd December, 2003.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the cities in the country where C.N.G. is proposed to be provided for the plying of buses during the next year;

(b) whether the Ministry is considering to open a C.N.G. filling station in Dehradun, the capital of Uttaranchal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) GAIL (India) Limited proposes to take up Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) distribution projects in Agra, Bareilly, Kanpur and Lucknow. CNG may be available for plying of buses in these cities from next year in a phased manner.

(b) and (c) No Sir. There are no plans to set up CNG station in Dehradun in the near future, as there is no pipeline network nearby from which natural gas may be made available for CNG purposes.

Status of tourism industry

*2. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of tourism industry of the country as compared to those of prominent countries; and

(b) what is the expectation for the current year and the steps taken to reach the target of three million international tourists for the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) During the period January to October 2003, international tourist arrivals to the country and foreign exchange earnings are estimated to be 2.11 million (growth rate 14.6%) and 2832 million US$ (growth rate 22.4%) respectively.

On the basis of information provided by World Tourism Organization for the current year, the performance of other prominent countries alongwith India is as follows :